Collection of interest on the amounts due from P.C.C. Societies, Malabar.

* 281 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received complaints from Producer-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies of Malabar regarding the collection of interest by the Collector on the amounts due from them ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Societies are asked to pay interest for the period of delay which occurs in the Collector's Office for entering the collections made from the Societies ; and

(*c*) what action the Government propose to take to remove this inconvenience?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) In view of the answer to clause (*b*), this does not arise."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തിൽ പല സൊസൈറ്റികളിൽനിന്നും പണമടച്ചിട്ടും കണക്കിൽ വയ്ക്കുവാൻ വളരെ ദിവസത്തിലധികം താമസം വരുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനെ തടയാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ട് എന്തു നടപടി എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട് ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" In addition to the language difficulty, I am afraid, the hon. Member has got the throat difficulty also." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Due to exigencies of import, sometimes the societies are asked to stock far more than is necessary and the Government collect interest from them at 4½ per cent. At the same time, stocks are released through them which take months if not years for the Government to account for. While they claim interest, they do not allow interest on cross claims. Will the Government be pleased to consider this aspect of the question."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As regards the stocking of foodstuffs, the question of interest does not arise up to a period of three months. As a matter of fact, the margin allowed for the wholesalers include interest for these three months. After three months, four per cent interest is provided for the co-operative societies also. I do not think, as far as the societies are concerned, there is any difficulty with regard to this interest."

Palmyra tax in Tirunelveli district.

* 282 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state the amount collected as palmyra tax in 1952–53 in Tirunelveli district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The demand under palmyra tree tax in Tirunelveli district for the year 1952–53 is Rs. 1,82,269–6–0. The tax is collected along